

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
INR-07 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12
NEA-10 /115 W
-----261328Z 050781 /65

R 260901Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1750
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY FREETOWN
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ABIDJAN 0771

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, ILO, AF
SUBJECT: HOROWITZ VISIT: GOIC SYMPATHETIC TO
U.S. VIEWS ON ILO

REF: 76 STATE 294250

BEGIN SUMMARY: IVORIAN GOVERNMENT AND UNION OFFICIALS
SHARE U.S. CONCERNS ABOUT ILO, AND ARE WELL AWARE OF
EFFECT U.S. WITHDRAWAL WOULD HAVE ON ORGANIZATION. U.S.
ILO HOROWITZ DID NOT ELICIT IVORIAN COMMITMENTS TO
SPECIFIC MEASURES DESIGNED TO REVERSE TENDENCIES IN
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ILO WHICH LED TO U.S. LETTER OF INTENT; BUT THERE IS NO
DOUBT OF IVORIAN SUPPORT IN PRINCIPLE. IVORY COAST HAS
BEEN INCREASINGLY READY TO TAKE FIRM STAND AGAINST
RADICAL ELEMENTS IN THIRD WORLD FORA, AND WILL LIKELY BE
SUPPORTIVE OF U.S. EFFORTS IN ILO. END SUMMARY.

1. MR. HOROWITZ MET WITH FONOFF SECRETARY GENERAL

POLNEAU; WITH LABOR MINISTRY DIRECTOR OF CABINET MME THIAM; AND WITH UGTCI GENERAL SECRETARY COFFIE AND MEMBERS EXECUTIVE BOARD, INCLUDING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DEPUTY ADE MENSAH. (MEETING WITH FONMIN USHER CANCELLED DUE DATE AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL.) HOROWITZ OUTLINED TENDENCIES IN ILO WHICH HAD WEAKENED PRINCIPLES OF ORGANIZATION AND LED TO U.S. LETTER OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW: DECLINE OF TRIPARTITE NATURE OF ILO UNDER EASTERN EUROPEAN PRESSURE; THE APPLICATION OF A DOUBLE STANDARD ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER ISSUES; THE ACCEPTANCE OF POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS OUTSIDE ITS COMPETENCE; AND THE PASSAGE OF CONDEMNATORY RESOLUTIONS WITHOUT INVESTIGATION, DESPITE THE ALMOST UNIQUE INVESTIGATIVE INSTRUMENTS AVAILABLE TO THE ILO. HOROWITZ ALSO NOTED THE TENDENCY OF GROUP OF 77 TO FOLLOW THE LEAD OF A FEW RADICAL NATIONS, WITH THE RESULT THAT THE NON-ALIGNED FREQUENTLY VOTE AGAINST THEIR OWN REAL INTERESTS. HE STRESSED THAT MAJORITY OF ILO MEMBERS WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH PRESENT COURSE OF ORGANIZATION, BUT HAD NOT BEEN PREPARED TO TAKE STANDS REQUIRED TO REVERSE IT. COURAGE AND DETERMINATION BY REASONABLE THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES WAS OF THE ESSENCE.

2. IVORIANS WERE SYMPATHETIC TO U.S. VIEWPOINT, BUT NOT SPECIFIC IN SUPPORT OF SUGGESTED MEASURES TO REVERSE ILO DETERIORATION. FONMIN SEC GEN POLNEAU DEPLORED INSERTION OF IRRELEVANT POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS IN ILO CONTEXT, NOTING THAT THIS WAS THE UNFORTUNATE CASE IN MANY INTERNATIONAL BODIES. HE AGREED THAT NON-RECEIVABILITY RULES ESTABLISHED BY REVISION OF ARTICLE 17 OF STANDING ORDERS WOULD BE CONFIDENTIAL

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USEFUL, BUT WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER EVEN THESE MEASURES WOULD BLOCK DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL ISSUES - APARTHEID, FOR EXAMPLE, COULD BE DESCRIBED AS RELEVANT IN MOST INTERNATIONAL BODIES. HOROWITZ STRESSED TO POLNEAU THE SPECIAL NATURE OF THE ILO'S INVESTIGATORY INSTRUMENTS.

3. IN RESPONSE TO IVORIAN PROFESSIONS OF SUPPORT FOR U.S. VIEWS, MR. HOROWITZ MADE CLEAR THAT VERBAL SUPPORT WAS NOT ENOUGH. THE ILO, HE SAID FORCEFULLY, WAS INTENDED TO BETTER THE LOT OF WORKERS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THE U.S. WORKER IS ALREADY WELL OFF AND HAS LITTLE TO GAIN FROM THIRD WORLD THAT CAN GAIN FROM THE ORGANIZATION, AND YET THIRD WORLD VOTES ARE CONTRIBUTING TO ITS DETERIORATION AND THE WEAKENING OF ITS PRINCIPLES. ADE MENSAH SUGGESTED THAT THE U.S. SHOULD STAY IN THE ILO DESPITE ITS FAILURES, TO DEFEND THE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH IT WAS BEGUN. HOROWITZ REPLIED THAT ILO RESOLUTIONS WERE THE RESULT OF MAJORITY VOTES. U.S. BELIEVES THAT MANY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES VOTE AGAINST

THEIR OWN INTERESTS, WHICH WAS ONE REASON FOR HIS VISIT;
BUT IF MAJORITY OF ILO MEMBERS AGREE WITH ITS PRESENT
COURSE, U.S. WOULD SEE LITTLE VALUE IN REMAINING.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 ABIDJAN 0771

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES HOROWITZ VISIT TIMELY AND USEFUL
IN CONVEYING TO IVORIANS HOW SERIOUSLY U.S. TAKES ILO
PROBLEMS. IN GROUP OF 77 IVORY COAST IS AMONG THE MOST SYM-
PATHETIC TO U.S. AND WESTERN POSITIONS, AND IN PAST
MONTHS HAS INCREASINGLY BEEN READY TO STAND UP AND BE
COUNTED, AS AT COLOMBO NAM MEETING. ALTHOUGH GOIC IS
CAUTIOUS ABOUT MAKING FIRM COMMITMENTS WHICH MIGHT
ISOLATE IT IN AFRICAN OR THIRD WORLD GROUPS, IT WILL
LIKELY SUPPORT U.S. EFFORTS AT ILO IF OTHER GROUP OF 77
COUNTRIES DO SO. AFRICAN LABOR MINISTERS CONFERENCE WILL
BE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THIS CONNECTION.

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5. IN COMING WEEKS WE WILL BE FOLLOWING UP HOROWITZ
APPROACH WITH FURTHER DISCUSSION AT FOREIGN AND LABOR
MINISTRIES.
STEARNS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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TAGS: ELAB, IV, US, ILO, (HOROWITZ, DANIEL L)
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vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ac3b08d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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